

Foreign Gossip.

According to the Mir, the Bulgarian official organ, Czar Ferdinand, "after the capture of Constantinople" will proclaim himself Emperor, and will assume the title of Simon, the Second. He will also adopt the Orthodox (Greek) faith.

The good Czar appears to be a bit "previous" in making such plans public. King Peter, on the same occasion, will take the title of King of all the Serbs, and King George's title will be King of all the Hellenes. King Nicholas intends to call himself King of Montenegro and Albania, but he is not likely to succeed. Albania does not want him. It wants freedom.

King Ferdinand is in favor of adopting the name of Simon, the second emperor of the national hero, and his reign, which began in 332, was Bulgaria's "Golden Age." When she took her place among the great powers of Europe, Simon attacked the Eastern empire, and within a few years created a Bulgarian empire extending from the Black Sea to the Danube. He then annexed the rest of the Danube, and acquired most of the Greeks, and maintained a court, whose magnificence outshone that of Constantinople. But the golden age passed with the death of the enlightened despot in A. D. 352.

The situation of the Ottoman army east of the Tchatalca ports has many points in common with that of the Danes before the lines of breakwaters at Doppel in April, 1864. Here also a chain of fortifications had been built across a peninsula. And as at Tchatalca now, both banks rested upon the seashore, of which the defenders still held command. In 1864, like the Turks to-day, were dispirited by a hasty retreat before a stronger army, and made no efforts to utilize their command of the sea to land troops on the coast and attack the enemy's banks or communications. The result was that the Turks after offering some losses from the fire of heavy guns, which their works were not designed to resist, and receiving little real assistance from their ships' guns, were finally driven from the position by the Prussian storming parties. It seems as if history were about to repeat itself in this case.

In 1864 the lines of Doppel were no longer up to date. Some of the chief points taken in the war were the attacks from positions which were out of range in 1845. Moreover, the Danes, in 1864, like the Turks to-day, were dispirited by a hasty retreat before a stronger army, and made no efforts to utilize their command of the sea to land troops on the coast and attack the enemy's banks or communications. The result was that the Turks after offering some losses from the fire of heavy guns, which their works were not designed to resist, and receiving little real assistance from their ships' guns, were finally driven from the position by the Prussian storming parties. It seems as if history were about to repeat itself in this case.

The anomalous condition of four million of Christians being ruled by two million Mohammedans, bound to follow in civil as in religious matters the forms of law and justice which are a part of their faith, could not possibly last. Had the Young Turks been successful, they would have been expected of them, had they introduced parliamentary representation, self-government, and majority rule in Turkey in general and Macedonia in particular, the Christians would have been in the majority, and the ruling race would have been converted into the ruled race. Thus a liberal policy in time would have been adopted, and the administration of the Turkish empire. It was probably a clear perception of this fact that impelled the Young Turks to follow a different policy which included the denationalization of all alien races, the compulsory teaching of the Turkish language in the schools, and the proscription of the native tongue.

There was a certain amount of religious and racial animosity between the Moslems and the Christians, and more than this amount of the animosity taken from them, was distributed among the Moslem peasants in adjacent territory. Moslem troops overran the country; the constitution was forgotten, liberty and equality were referred to by the Christians only to elicit the comment that Turkish promises were no better than the promises of the Devil. More than when they had been given by the old Turks. This revolt was organized, and Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia were challenged to prevent the work of a separation from being undone. Apparently the outbreak of the war was inevitable as the breakdown of the Young Turkish regime, and whatever might be the issue, the end or order of things in the Balkans could never be resolved.

Two widely varying forecasts have been made of the future of the Balkan states by men whom judgment is entitled to some weight. One is that the Balkan peoples will continue to form a loose and somewhat amorphous confederacy in the sense in which Italy and France is homogeneous religion and race, traditions and aspirations, culture and temperament, split them up into many groups. Between Greek and Slav there hardly anything in common. Even between Bulgars and Macedonians there is nothing but a common language. The other is that the Balkans will be a Melting-Pot, in which a Christian I'm to a very few years ago, Serb and Bulgar fought as brothers against each other, as they have ever fought against the Turk, and conflicting interests have kept the Balkan peninsula in a constant simmer for fully 2000 years since neither Roman nor Byzantine subjugated it, and it has lost its political importance and power.

The Turks, however, are still fighting it for some 20 years and yet there may never depart leaving it as they found it. Austria ruled Serbia several decades, but failed to assimilate it. Russia tried her hand at administering Bulgaria, after her last war with Turkey, but was ousted, and now the country and her people are forced to live under the Turk. One of the reasons for the present conflict is the sharp contrast between the processes of the enfranchised Balkan states and the retrograde character of those that remained under the Turkish rule. The people of Macedonia, suffering from continued anarchy, as their neighbors had most of the same race, and indeed the same language, were probably like that to which they had been subjected. Bulgaria and Serbia were free, the Bulgars in Central Macedonia, the Serbs in the north and the Greeks in the south only had to cross a mostly artificial boundary in order to be among their compatriots in one state, where life and property were safe, and law was respected. The very realization of this centralized, all-making progress, emphasized the intolerable position under which the subjects of the Sultan were suffering.

The expectation thus has some solid warrant that the new era in the Balkans will bring about economic and social changes as those which will take place in the political status of the people. Bulgaria, with more men of the same race in Macedonia than either of the others, has been cited as a triumphant vindication of all that has been said in favor of the emancipation of Christian peoples from the Moslem rule. The country has been greatly advanced in civilization. There have been provided good schools, reasonably good roads, a well organized postal service, responsible law courts, and a just administration.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of Ferdinand of Coburg's arrival in Bulgaria, which was celebrated in the monasteries as an epochal day, was afforded for the public view of the national improvement which had been affected during a quarter of a century, and the exhibit was an impressive one. There is every reason to believe that if the Balkan states can be allowed to develop each in its own way, without interference from any of the great powers, an era of prosperity will dawn in the Balkans, which will make a very substantial addition to their common and individual wealth.

The Balkan peninsula contains some of the richest and most fertile regions of the ancient world, and, however intractable the races inhabiting it may have

been, they have recently had a fair chance to show what they could do when left to manage their affairs in their own way.

powerful Balkan states would undoubtedly prove formidable obstacles to the progress of Austria-Hungary toward Salzburg, and of Russia toward Constantinople (though England would have to try to prevent that as it is), but the time has passed when either Austria or Russia can veto the development of those people along the lines of their own choosing.

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